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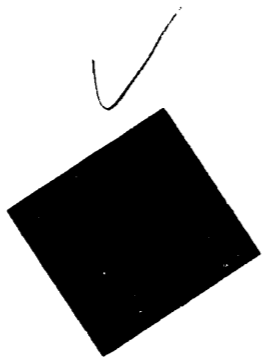
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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947



PALESTINE

File No. 1916

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Reference:-

FO

371 / 61906

CLOSED
UNTIL

1978

61906

8

E

E 1916
MAR 1947

1947

Registry Number

3E190/191/11

FROM

Dropped in file

No.

General Office

Dated

75172/47

Received in Registry

5 711 Porter
3 711 Porter
5 711 Porter

9. Arab Orthodox Community in Palestine.
Re: C.O. letter of Sept 13 1946 enclosing
copy of despatch of 11/12/46 to
Pall Mall and copy of letter from the
Bishop of THYATEIRA on the subject
of the Palestine Orthodox Patriarchate
reference 132 of 1946. New evidence only
from Palestine which is a report to the
C.O. on the subject of the B. Patriarchate.

Last Paper.

9223/3807/31

(Minutes.)

I think we can concur.

References.

Southern Dept.

Yes. We might tone it
down just a little.

J. M. Bentley
14/3

C.O. informed accordingly.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61906

(Action completed.)

J.P. Moly
10/1/48

(Index.)

J.P. Moly
10/1/48

Next Paper.

5918

32003 F.O.P

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Reference:-

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371 / 61906



75172/47.

E 1916
MAR

Downing Street,
S.W.1.

~~28th February~~, 1947.

MAR 1947

Dear Baxter, *MARK*

We sent to you on the 13th September last a copy of our despatch to the High Commissioner for Palestine, No. 404 of the 12th September, enclosing a copy of the letter from the Archbishop of Thyateira on the subject of the Palestine Orthodox Patriarchate Ordinance No. 32 of 1941. I now enclose a copy of the savingram which we have received from the High Commissioner in reply.

We would propose, subject to any views which the Foreign Office may have on this question, to convey to the Archbishop the substance of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the High Commissioner's savingram.

Would you kindly let me know whether you concur?

Yours sincerely,

Richard Smith

C.W. BAXTER, ESQ., C.M.G., M.C.

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371 / 61906

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8 clear
SAVING

SF/112/44

4

From the Officer Administering the Government of Palestine.

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date.....4.1.47.....

No.....3.....Saving. SECRET

Your secret despatch No. 408 of the 12th September transmitting a copy of a letter from the Archbishop of Thyateira concerning the Orthodox Patriarchate Ordinance No. 32 of 1941.

2. The position is that negotiations have been in progress for some time past, conducted by the District Commissioner, Jerusalem District, between the Orthodox lay community and the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem in an attempt to reconcile the two parties and secure such cooperation between them as would enable the Ordinance or a modification of it to be put into effective operation.
3. In the course of these negotiations which have already been successful in narrowing the divergence of views between the two parties to a considerable extent the question of a reorganisation of the Mixed Council has proved to be one of the most difficult problems. One suggestion which was made at a meeting held by the District Commissioner with the Committee of the Holy Synod on the 15th May, 1946, - (and which has no doubt given rise to the ill formed protest in the Archbishop of Thyateira's letter) - was that the Mixed Council should be reconstituted to give an ecclesiastic majority over the lay representation of two to one - (as opposed to the constitution provided for in the existing Ordinance which gives the lay representation a majority of two over the ecclesiastical members including the Patriarch) - and that in the event of this being accepted, all the properties of the Patriarchate instead of only those vested in the Patriarch-in-Council should be administered by the Mixed Council. This suggestion was not acceptable to the Holy Synod and was therefore dropped. The discussions have since proceeded along other lines.
4. There is no basis whatever for the Archbishop's impression that the Patriarchate was presented with a suggested amendment of the Ordinance (which has of course not yet been brought into operation) or that a time-limit was prescribed for the preparation of a definitive draft.
5. The Archbishop's letter seems to illustrate the fear of certain reactionary elements within the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem of any possible encroachment on or infringement of their supposed rights, and their inability to appreciate the atmosphere of friendly cooperation and exchange of views which has characterized the discussions which have taken place between His Beatitude the Patriarch, the members of the Committee of the Holy Synod, the lay representatives and the District Commissioner.

RECEIVED
10 JAN 94
C. REGY.

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Reference:-

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1947

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F 5978

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PALESTINE

3 5

Registry Number

E 5978/1947/51

FROM

Embassy

No.

6111 585

Dated

2 July

Received in Registry

7

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... ..
... ..
... ..

Last Paper.

1916

(Minutes.)

References.

copy V.C.O.
... ..
Northern Dept of

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

✓ P.O.
✓ July 10

(Action completed)

...

(Index)

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Next Paper.

11200

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Reference:-

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1947

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PALESTINE

F 5978
3 10

Registry Number

E 5978/1947/51.

FROM

Embassy

No.

6000 585

Dated

2 July

Received in Registry

9 -

Letter to the community in Palestine.
Re: 1000 letters from the House of
Assembly of 2nd July 1947, being more of
the first meeting of the House of
Assembly of 1947.

Last Paper.

1916

(Minutes.)

copy V.C.O.

References.

Hallam's Review 15 July
Northern Reg. 16 July

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

✓ P.O.
✓ July 10

(Action completed)

9/11/47

(Index)

10/11/47

Next Paper.

11200

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Reference:-

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371 / 61906

SR

No. 585
(227/4/47)

7

His Majesty's Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
CAIRO.

2nd July, 1947. E 5978

Reference to previous communication: 312

Description of Enclosure.

| Name, Date, etc. | Subject. |
|---|------------------------|
| Extract from "Le Bourse Egyptienne" of 24th June, 1947. | Greek Orthodox Church. |

Also sent to: Holy See and Jerusalem.

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Reference:-

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371 / 61906

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"La Bourse Egyptienne": 24th June, 1947.

JERUSALEM SOUS LE CONTROLE DU SAINT-SIÈGE ?

Le bureau de presse du patriarchat grec-orthodoxe d'Alexandrie communique ce qui suit :

"Selon une dépêche de l'Associated Press datée du 21 juin et provenant de la Cité du Vatican, Mgr. Enrico Pucci du service de l'information du Vatican, commenta les informations de Londres suggérant la possibilité de placer Jérusalem sous le contrôle du St-Siège. Il déclara que le Vatican ne ferait jamais le premier pas dans une telle direction mais que plutôt il intensifierait son action diplomatique dans le Moyen-Orient comme ce fut le cas au Liban et tout dernièrement en Egypte et en Grèce.

"En 1945, le R.P. Giulio Juana, supérieur des missions catholiques en Palestine, avait soumis au nom de l'Ordre des Franciscains, un memorandum sur les lieux saints. Après avoir exposé les points en litige de la question palestinienne, il optait pour une résolution de la question par le St-Siège, connu in-

ternationalement pour son impartialité chrétienne.

"S.B. le Patriarche Christophoros II qui fut et qui est membre de la confraternité du St-Sépulcre, avait alors attiré l'attention de l'Eglise de Jérusalem sur ce memorandum.

"Le bureau de presse du patriarchat grec-orthodoxe est donc autorisé à faire savoir que, vu les très mauvais services rendus à l'Orthodoxie grecque en Orient depuis des siècles par l'action unilatérale diplomatique et politique du Vatican, action protégée par les grandes puissances catholiques d'antan, les Grecs-Orthodoxes en Orient souhaitent et demandent catégoriquement que Jérusalem soit placée sous la seule tutelle politique de l'Angleterre ou sous la protection collective des trois alliés victorieux".

— (AFP).

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371 / 61906

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E

9

11200

28 NOV

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E11200/1916/31

FROM Embassy

No. 6 new

Dated 9 Feb.

Received in Registry } 24 Nov
28

Pal. Inf. Information

Re: (new) dispatch 585 (E-5978/1916/31)

Enclosed extract from 'Le Progress Egyptien'

of 21 Nov of a speech by S.R.D. Christopheros

II on the Palestine Question.

Last Paper.

5978

(Minutes.)

Copy Co.

References.

Italian Sect. 3/12

✓ CRAB 5/12 MS 5/12/47

Am. Motion Dept.

JB m.v. 28

F.O.R.D. (Mrs Miller) would

I think like to see.

CRAB 2/12

5/12

(Print.)

FOIA info 13/12

JB m.v. 5

(How disposed of.)

8, 80.

Nov Dec. 2

(Action completed.)

8/10/17

1 copy kept

B.M. 13/12

(Index)

10/9/48

Next Paper.

E 11669

32003 F.O.P

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Reference:-

FO

371 / 61906

/RV

No. 946

(227/7/47)

His Majesty's Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
CAIRO.

28th November 1947

28 NOV

Reference to previous communication:

Cairo P.D. No. 585 (227/4/47) of 2.7.47.

Description of Enclosure.

| Name, Date, etc. | Subject. |
|------------------|----------|
|------------------|----------|

| | |
|---|--|
| Extract from Le Troarcas Egyptien of 21st November, 1947 of a speech by S.B.D. Christophoros II on the Palestine question. | |
|---|--|

(Copies also sent to Jerusalem
under P.D. No. 126 and the Holy
See 1/n)

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Reference:-

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371 / 61906

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E

1947

VALENTINE

11369
10 DEC

Registry Number E11669/1916/31
FROM Greek Embassy
No.
Dated
Received in Registry 8 Dec 10 -

Indicence of Greek Orthodox Patriarchate
In view of pending preparation by the U.N. of
a special regime for Jerusalem, the final approval
and promulgation of the Ordinances of the
Greek Orthodox Patriarchate has become a
matter of extreme urgency.

Last Paper.

11200

(Minutes.)

References.

Du. Dec. 30th

JB Dec. 10

- Interim reply from C.O. is at E 11960/1916/31.
- Now see E 2658 (Jerusalem tel. in latest discussions on this
subject) and E 2774 (C.O. letter to archbp. Germans based
on same tel.). We showed copy to Gk. Embassy in similar lines.

Dft. note to Greek Embassy.

DBalpin
6/3

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

w. H. Trafford Smith
C.O.
Dec 10
from Mr. Harwood
w/ft. Greek Embassy
12. Mar

J.H.B.
11.3

Now see E 3355/2658/31 (written
demand by Gk. Embassy). In comment on the copy
of this to C.O. a copy of the one sent to the Embassy
(last paper in this folder) was also sent.

J.B.
12/3

(Action completed.)

J.L.M.

(Index.)

10/9/48

Next Paper.

11960

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Reference:-

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371 / 61906

The Greek Ambassador called on December 9th and left with me an aide memoire regarding the desire of the Greek Government that in view of the situation which was developing in Palestine, the Palestine Government should be asked to press on urgently with promulgation of the Ordinances of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

I told the Ambassador that I was not conversant with the matter but I undertook to see that it was referred urgently to the Colonial Office.

I.P. Garran
I.P. Garran.

9th December, 1947.

Pt. draft urgently submitted

BAH

9.12

Draft submitted accordingly

[Signature]
(TELE-CABLE)

10/12

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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371 / 61906

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17069
10 DEC

In view of the pending preparation by the United Nations of a special regime for Jerusalem, the final approval and promulgation of the Ordinance of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate has become a matter of extreme urgency.

The Royal Hellenic Government believe that any further delay on this promulgation would leave the Patriarchate juridically in a weak position and thus dangerously unprotected in front of the situation which is being created in Palestine.

The Royal Hellenic Government earnestly hope that their apprehensions are meeting with the British Government's views and that the **latter will** take all the necessary steps in order to **accelerate the** promulgation of the ordinance.

London, 8th December, 1947.

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371 / 61906

Registry No. *1166a/1a16/31*

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

10th November 1947.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

Draft.

Mr Trafford Smith
Colonial Office

From: Mr Burrows

11/15
16/11

IMMEDIATE

Dear Trafford Smith,

The Greek Ambassador called on the 9th December and left *with Gavan* an aide memoire asking that the Government of Palestine should be requested to press on urgently with the promulgation of the ordinances of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem, *in view of present developments in Palestine.*

2. The Ambassador was told that we were not conversant with this question but that it would be referred urgently to the Colonial Office, and I now enclose herein a copy of the Greek aide memoire ~~referred to above~~ *and that be grateful if you could let us have an urgent reply*

10 Dec. 10

(Sgd.) W. F. L. Pyman
for (S. A. B. Burrows)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

G.S.S. 5/47 250m 144-148-114 (14728) Wt.

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Reference: **FO**

371 / 61906

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

16

10th December, 1947.

(E 21669/1916/31) **OUT FILE**
IMMEDIATE
RESTRICTED.

The Greek Ambassador called on the 9th December and left with Garraan an aide memoire asking that the Government of Palestine should be requested to press on urgently with the promulgation of the ordinances of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem, in view of present developments in Palestine.

2. The Ambassador was told that we were not conversant with this question but that it would be referred urgently to the Colonial Office. I now enclose herein a copy of the Greek aide memoire and should be grateful if you could let me have an urgent reply.

(Sgd.) W. F. L. Ryman.
for (S.A.S. Burrows)

Trafford Smith, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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371 / 61906

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Registry
No. ~~411609/1916/31~~

17
12th March, 1948.

Draft.

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| Top Secret. |
| Secret. |
| Confidential. |
| Restricted. |
| Open. |

DB
2/3

Greek
~~French~~ Embassy.

Copy C/O.

*10.3
Southern Dept*

min

JAB

9.3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

The Foreign Office present their compliments to the Greek Embassy and have the honour to refer to their note of the 8th December 1947 regarding the approval and promulgation of the Ordinance of the Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

Information has been received through the Colonial Office that this Ordinance (No. 32 of 1941), which was put forward as a basis for agreement between the Orthodox Patriarchate and the Arab Orthodox Community but which cannot be promulgated, in its original form or with amendments, unless such agreement is reached, has been the subject of further negotiations during the last year. Unfortunately the efforts of the District Commissioner, Jerusalem District, and of the Solicitor General to arrive at a settlement of this long-standing dispute have proved of no avail. There appears to be little prospect of agreement, owing to the uncompromising attitude adopted by/

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19

E11669/1916/31

The Foreign Office present their compliments to the Greek Embassy and have the honour to refer to their note of the 8th December, 1947, regarding the approval and promulgation of the Ordinance of the Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

Information has been received through the Colonial Office that this Ordinance (No. 32 of 1941), which was put forward as a basis for agreement between the Orthodox Patriarchate and the Arab Orthodox Community, but which cannot be promulgated, in its original form or with amendments, unless such agreement is reached, has been the subject of further negotiations during the last year. Unfortunately the efforts of the District Commissioner, Jerusalem District, and of the Solicitor-General to arrive at a settlement of this long-standing dispute have proved of no avail. There appears to be little prospect of agreement, owing to the uncompromising attitude adopted by both parties to the dispute on the essential problem of whether or not the Arab laity should have an authoritative voice in the management of the properties of the Patriarchate.

The Government of Palestine are, however, using and will continue to use their best endeavours to arrive at a solution acceptable to both sides of an ancient and difficult dispute, which they regard as essentially one for local settlement.

Foreign Office,

12th March, 1948.

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1947

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11900

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PALESTINE

DEC

Registry Number E11960/1916/31

FROM

Krofford Smith

No.

6.0

Dated

75122/47

Received in Registry

G. M. Burrows

12X68
17

Last Paper.

11669

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

P. C. M. 11/11

(Index.)

10/9/48

Next Paper.

2658/2658/31 '48

Ordinance of Greek Orthodox Patriarchate
Re: for H. letter (E 11669/1916/31) total position
was shown in Patriarch's telegram N3 of
Jan 4.
This asked M/O for urgent reply.

(Minutes.)

Bu. as on E11669

J.D. Dec. 17

Reminded

Burday 11th J.D. Dec. 22

C.O. reminded to day

H.B. 151

Now see E 2658 (tel. from Jerusalem)

D.B.
8/3

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Reference:-

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371 / 61906



*Letter 21
END*

My Reference 75172/47.

The Church House,
Gt. Smith Street,
S.W.1.

Your Reference

75172

13th December, 1947.

17 DEC

Dear Burrows

May I refer to your letter of the 10th December (E.11669/1916/31) about the Greek Ambassador's interest in the ordinance relating to the Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem?

The latest position with regard to this ordinance is described in the High Commissioner's savingram No.3 of the 4th January, 1947, a copy of which was enclosed in my letter to Baxter of the 3rd March. You will find previous correspondence from the Greek Ambassador under Foreign Office reference E.7307/3807/31.

I am afraid the only thing we can do is to refer again to the High Commissioner for Palestine. I have asked for an urgent reply and will let you know as soon as it is received.

*Yours sincerely
Trafford Smith*

(Trafford Smith)

B. A. B. BURROWS, ESC.

e 105/2011

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